

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-09

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L/OES:MEHOINKES

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS STATE 225820

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, MX

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE REALLOCATION OF MEXICAN PACIFIC FISHERY
ALLOCATIONS HELD IN RESERVE

REF: STATE 286063, 1977

1. DEPT HAS RECEIVED NUMEROUS INQUIRIES FROM DEPT OF
COMMERCE OFFICIALS, AS WELL AS FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS WHICH
ARE CLOSE TO FILLING THEIR PRESENT ALLOCATIONS, CONCERNING
INTENT OF MEXICO TO FISH FOR NORTHEAST PACIFIC AND
GULF OF ALASKA FISHERY ALLOCATIONS, SPECIFICALLY THE 50
PERCENT HELD IN RESERVE PENDING SUCCESS OF MEXICAN FISHER-
MEN. MEXICAN OPERATIONS HAVE NOT YET BEGUN IN THE NORTH-
EAST PACIFIC AND, TO DATE, NO FISHING PERMIT APPLI-
CATIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FOR THE GULF OF ALASKA FISHERY.

2. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO RAISE ABOVE ISSUE WITH APPRO-
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PRIATE GOM OFFICIALS AND INQUIRE OF THEIR INTENTIONS
TO FISH OFF U.S. PACIFIC COAST IN 1978. IF GOM OFFICIALS
ANTICIPATE THAT GOM WILL NOT HARVEST AMOUNTS NOW BEING
HELD IN RESERVE, REPEAT RESERVE, FOR GOM FOR SECOND
HALF OF 1978, U.S. WOULD APPRECIATE CONSIDERATION BY
GOM OF THEIR REVISING THEIR REQUESTS. EMBASSY SHOULD
EMPHASIZE THAT A RESPONSE FROM GOM RESULTING IN A RELEASE

OF THIS RESERVE FOR ALLOCATION TO OTHER COUNTRIES IN 1978

OULD NOT, REPEAT NOT, ADVERSELY IMPACT ON A GOM REQUEST FOR ALLOCATIONS OFF U.S. COAST IN 1979. DEPT REMAINS PREPARED TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO GOM REQUESTS FOR ALLOCATIONS OFF U.S. COAST TO EXTENT IT CAN WITHIN LIMITS OF THE TALFF AND THE ABILITY OF GOM TO TAKE ITS ALLOCATIONS. AT SAME TIME, USG HAS RESPONSIBILITY UNDER FCMA TO ASSURE FULLEST POSSIBLE UTILIZATION OF SURPLUS FISH STOCKS OFF U.S. COAST.

3. FYI. THE AMOUNTS BELOW REPRESENT 50 PERCENT OF THE 1978 MEXICAN ALLOCATION FOR DIRECTED FISHERIES ON PACIFIC COD, PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH, POLLOCK, HAKE AND SQUID WHICH WERE HELD IN RESERVE, PENDING THE PERFORMANCE OF GOM FISHERMEN (REFTL). HOWEVER, WITHOUT 50 PERCENT OF THE ALLOCATIONS FOR INCIDENTAL SPECIES (FLOUNDERS, ATKA MACKEREL, OTHER ROCKFISHES, SABLEFISH, AND OTHER SPECIES), FOR WHICH THERE WERE NO AMOUNTS HELD IN RESERVE, DIRECTED SPECIES RE ALLOCATIONS WOULD NOT BE MEANINGFUL. FOLLOWING FIGURES THEREFORE SHOW ALLOCATIONS HELD IN RESERVE AS WELL AS PORTION OF INCIDENTAL SPECIES ALLOCATIONS NECESSARY TO BE REALLOCATED TO MAKE DIRECTED FISHERY VIABLE.

A. NORTHEAST PACIFIC (CALIFORNIA-OREGON-WASHINGTON):
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PACIFIC HAKE, 15,000 METRIC TONS (MT); JACK MACKEREL, 50 MT; PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH AND OTHER ROCKFISHES, 115 MT; FLOUNDERS, 15 MT; SABLEFISH, 15 MT; OTHER SPECIES, 72 MT.

B. GULF OF ALASKA: PACIFIC COD, 4,000 MT; PACIFIC OCEAN PERCH, 1,596; OTHER ROCKFISHES, 372 MT; SABLEFISH, 50 MT; SQUID, 745 MT; FLOUNDERS, 50 MT; ATKA MACKEREL, 50 MT; POLLOCK, 10,000 MT; OTHER SPECIES, 1000 MT.
END FYI.

4. EMBASSY MAY WISH TO REMIND GOM THAT FOREIGN FISHERY FOR HAKE IN THE PACIFIC CLOSES OCTOBER 31, AND THAT NEW ALLOCATIONS FOR GULF OF ALASKA GROUND FISH FISHERY FOR 1979 ARE EXPECTED TO BE ISSUED SOMETIME IN OCTOBER, IF, AS EXPECTED, ALASKA GROUND FISH FMP IS IMPLEMENTED ON NOVEMBER 1, 1978. (ALLOCATIONS FOR THAT FISHERY WOULD BE FOR NOVEMBER 1, 1978, TO OCTOBER 31, 1979.) CHRISTOPHER

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